



Protocols for Conservation Tillage

Exchange Soil Offset Eligible Practices and Offset Issuance Rates for Montana Zone C

Zone C:

Soil Offsets will be earned at a rate of 0.32 metric tons per acre per year to land managers who commit to continuous conservation tillage for all of the years 2006 through 2010 on acres specified upon project registration. General eligibility criteria and practices for the region include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Continuous soybeans or pulse crops (i.e. beans, peas, or lentils) are eligible only if there is a cover crop;
- (2) Irrigated acreage in LRR G of Zone C (counties in LRR G are indicated in Appendix 9.3B) is eligible for enrollment provided that the acreage began irrigation in crop years prior to April 17, 2007. Exchange Soil Offsets will be issued to eligible irrigated acres at a rate of 0.6 metric tons per acre per year;
- (3) Eligible implements include but are not limited to: no-till drill, no-till and strip-till planters, rolling harrows, low disturbance liquid manure injectors, anhydrous ammonia applicator, manure knife applicator, sub-soil ripper with at least 24 inch shank spacing;
- (4) Ineligible implements include but are not limited to: field cultivators, tandem disk, offset disk, chisel plow, moldboard plow;
- (5) In general if the implement would require that a leveling or smoothing activity follow, it would likely result in too much soil disturbance;
- (6) Chemical fallow acres in Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) 52, 53A, and 54 (county listings provided in Appendix 9.3B) are eligible in this region but will not receive Exchange Soil Offsets for the years in which fallow takes place. Non-fallow years will receive Exchange Soil Offsets at a rate of 0.32 metric tons per acre per year;
- (7) No Exchange Soil Offsets will be issued in years in which residue removal and/or burning occurs